

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Society for the Diffusion of Christian & General Knowledge among the Chinese,

For Year ending October 31st, 1894.



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PRINTED AT NORONHA & SONS,
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1894.

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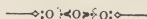
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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN AND GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CHINESE.

*[First established as School and Text Book Committee by the China Missionary
Conference in 1877.]*

Developed into the Chinese Book and Tract Society in Glasgow in 1884.

*Formed into the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge
among the Chinese in 1887.*

*Specially supported by the Christian Literature Society for China organized
in 1892 to succeed the Chinese Book and Tract Society.]*

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ARTICLE I.—The Society shall be named in English the
“SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN AND GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CHINESE ;” and in the Chinese language :
廣學會。

ARTICLE II. *Object.*—The object of the Society shall be,—(1)
to take over the Printing Press and other Property as a free gift
generously offered by the original promoters—the Book and Tract
Society of China; and (2) to continue the publication and circula-
tion of literature based on Christian principles throughout China,
her Colonies, Dependencies, and wherever Chinamen are found—
especially Periodical literature adapted for all classes as the resources
of the Society may permit.

ARTICLE III. *Mode of Operation.*—These objects shall be carried
out first, and especially, by the composition and issue of original
books, articles, and tracts, written with a Christian aim, but from a
Chinese standpoint, with a knowledge of native modes of thought,
and adapted to instruct and elevate the people; Second, by a
periodical of a comparatively high character adapted to the more
intelligent classes in China; Third, a periodical for the women and

children; Fourth, one for the School boys; Fifth, by reprinting such works, large or small, as may commend themselves to the Board; and Sixth, by the establishment of a Central Depôt at Shanghai, with agencies, as far as possible, in the Capital and chief cities of the 18 Provinces, and also at the other emporiums of commerce in the East, at Hongkong, Yokohama, Singapore, Penang, and Batavia.

ARTICLE IV. *Membership*.—All subscriptions shall be purely voluntary, and all persons may become members on being proposed, seconded, and carried by a majority at one or other of the stated Meetings of the Society.

ARTICLE V. The Society shall be managed by a Board of Directors of different religious denominations, resident in different parts of China, who shall have power to add to their number, fill up vacancies, appoint an Executive Committee, and in general to manage all the affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE VI. *Powers of the Board*.—The Board shall have power to elect its own office-bearers, determine its own Meetings, appoint Trustees (who may or may not be members of the Society) in whom any property of the Society may be vested; also to devolve upon Sub-Committees, Local Associations, or individuals, whether members or not, such charge of specific portions of the Society's operations as may seem expedient or necessary.

The Board also shall have power to call special Meetings of the Society, take such steps as may appear best to diffuse information regarding the proceedings of the Society, secure pecuniary contributions, defray out of the funds of the Society all expenses connected with the work, and in general take whatever measures, consistent with the constitution, as shall seem likely to promote the objects for which the Society is organized.

ARTICLE VII. *Retiring Members of Board*.—One-third of the Directors shall retire each year, according to alphabetical rotation, at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.

ARTICLE VIII. *Quorum*.—One-third of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum: and the Chairman shall have a deliberative as well as casting vote.

ARTICLE IX. *Annual General Meeting.*—A General Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held during the second week of December, every year, at such place as the Directors may appoint, when a statement of the income and expenditure shall be submitted, together with a report of the Society's operations during the preceding year.

ARTICLE X. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly, and it shall have power to frame its own By-Laws; but one special duty shall be that it take care the liabilities of the Society shall never exceed half the value of the Press and Plant.

ARTICLE XI. *Alteration of Constitution*—The preceding articles of Constitution can be altered only by a vote of two-thirds of the members present or duly represented at the Annual General Meetings, and that only in the event of three months' previous notice having been duly circulated among the members of the Society.



Report.

WHILE this year is one of profound gloom to China owing to the war with Japan, we are glad to report much encouragement in the work of our Society.

A VICEROY GIVES TEALS 1,000.

The most significant thing in connection with our Society this year is that the Chinese mandarins have commenced to recognise its value and to help it. The Viceroy, Chang Chih-tung in Hankow, Central China, the next in importance to Li Hung-chang the great Viceroy in Tientsin, has sent us a subscription of One Thousand Taels (about £150,) and two others the Taotai Nieh of Shanghai and one of the managers of the China Merchants have sent us smaller sums of 100 and 40 dollars respectively. The three native Dailies in Shanghai published *in extenso* our Chinese Annual Report for last year. We never have had any subscription from the Chinese for this work before and therefore feel much encouraged by this beginning of interest. Above all we have received letters from the interior even as far as the province of Szechuen assuring us that our books have been the means of removing prejudice and suspicion and of increasing friendliness between the mandarins and the missionaries.

LARGE INCREASE OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

This year we have been able to publish a larger number of religious and general books than in any previous year. These, though not large in size, are of superior quality and the editions are of 2,000 each book. They are :—

Religious Stories and Illustrations,

etc., by Rev. Young J. Allen, LL.D.;

Communion with God, „ Rev. William Muirhead, D.D.:

- John Lees—A story of rescue at sea* by Mrs. A. J. Muirhead ;
Immortality „ Rev. W. P. Bentley ;
Persecutions in Madagascar „ Mrs. Foster ;
Mission in the South Sea Islands ... „ Mrs. Foster ;
A Course of Christian Meditation... „ Mrs. Foster ;
Three Prefaces on the importance } „ { Viceroy Li Hung-chang,
of Western Learning } „ { The late Marquis Tsêng ;
Modern value of Waterworks and } „ Mr. Goebel, Consul General
Dredging..... } „ for Belgium ;
Krummacher's Parables, (selections
from) „ the Secretary ;
Looking Backward (abridged) „ the Secretary ;
Productive and Non-productive
Labour „ the Secretary ;
Progress of China's Neighbours—
Russia, Japan, India, etc „ the Secretary ;
Eight Great Emperors of Europe „ the Secretary ;
Imperial Edict for the protection
of Christians
A Diagram of the Stream of Time „ the Secretary ;

Miss Harvie has kindly sent us some beautiful specimens of large *Oleas* suitable for hanging in chapels, hospitals and school-rooms.

Dr. Allen is preparing *The Witnesses or Portable Evidences of Christianity* which is coming out serially, comprising the conversion and Christian experience of representative men from the great religions of the East, giving the reasons why they found Shintoism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Mohammedanism unsatisfactory, and why they found Christianity satisfactory. Two of the above are already in the press.

The Secretary has three works ready for publication viz:—

1. The translation of Mackenzie's *History of the Nineteenth Century* which describes all the recent reforms, political, social, religious, etc., in the West, but it will take four months to print it.

2. *Essays on the Question of the Day in China.*

3. *Outline History of Mission work in the Nineteenth Century* which will be illustrated by some of the portraits kindly selected by Mr. Denholm Young of Glasgow.

THE "MISSIONARY REVIEW" RESUSCITATED.

The publication of this rather long list for such a small society as ours has been partly effected by stopping the *Missionary Review* during the year. But now it has been decided to resume the publication of this periodical, charging a little more both for that and for the *Review of the Times* so that it is hoped we shall have less loss on the publication than formerly. The aim of the *Missionary Review* will not be controversial but to supply the Chinese Pastors and Teachers with some account of the chief Christian work carried on throughout the world, especially by the different societies in China, so that those living in isolated places may be helped and stimulated by the knowledge of what others are doing to help to raise China out of her ignorance, superstition, poverty and despair.

As Dr. Allen finds himself unable to undertake the editorship of the two Magazines, we have succeeded in getting the Rev. E. T. Williams of Nanking, a man eminently qualified for the work, to undertake the editorship of the *Missionary Review*. Its renewed publication will commence with the beginning of 1895.

TRIENNIAL EXAMINATIONS.

At the Triennial Examinations in the maritime provinces, special pamphlets and sheet-tracts prepared by Drs. Edkins and Allen, 10,000 of each, were distributed among the students. 3,000 copies of extra numbers of the *Review of the Times* for that month were printed and also distributed among the students as specimen copies. For this distribution we have to thank the missionaries at the various centres for their kind interest and help.

MR. HANBURY'S PRIZES FOR ESSAYS.

To Peking, Nanking, Hangchow, Foochow and Canton were sent 10,000 extra sheets also for free distribution among the students competing for Chū Jên degree, which is usually regarded as the Chinese

equivalent for our M.A. degree, offering prizes to them for the best essays on the following subjects:—

1.—The advantages to be derived by China from adopting the Railway system, the coinage of silver money, and an Imperial Postal system, such as Japan has recently adopted.

2.—The advantage to accrue if China would introduce machinery for the preparation of tea, and for the reeling of silk, so as the better to compete with foreign countries.

3.—The benefit derived during the past thirty years by the excellent administration of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

4.—Shew whether China is really in earnest in wishing the opium trade stopped, and prove that it is possible to suppress the immense culture of the poppy in China if the Government in India consents to cease producing the drug.

5.—Shew how better and more friendly relations may be established between China and foreign countries.

The money for these prizes (Tls. 600) has been given us by Thomas Hanbury, Esq. The Essays are to be sent in by January 5th, 1895.

FREE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE.

Besides the free distribution of the above, through the kindness of the Misses Harvie of Glasgow the missionaries in Nanking selected from our catalogue \$100 worth for free distribution in that great centre from which our literature would be carried home by the students to all parts of three provinces. Altogether in all the provinces there were 260,000 pp. distributed gratis. If the number of pp. in Dr. Faber's work on *Christian Civilisation* be added, which we are this year distributing gratis to each of the higher mandarins of the Empire through the liberality of Pastor Kranz, and which alone amounts to 3,260,000 pp. that would make a total of 3,520,000 pp. This record we believe surpasses anything of the kind hitherto done by any Book or Tract Society in China.

SALE OF BOOKS.

Though we are glad to be able to make large free distribution our chief hope in influencing the Chinese mind is from the sale of our publications. We are glad to report increase in this direction also.

In 1890-91 the sales amounted to.....\$ 561.72

This year 1893-94 they amount to.....\$2,184.00

A Chinese gentleman seeing our list has lately sent in orders for \$20 worth of them for his own reading. 2,000 copies of our publications were bought in order to distribute them gratis among the students of Honan.

THE GREAT NEED.

Sixteen years ago at least ten millions must have perished in the great famine of North China, for lack of means of transport, for there was rice heaped up in mountains at Tientsin only 400 miles off but absolutely nothing has yet been done to avert a recurrence of such a calamity! The natural increase of the population in Europe and India is nearly one per cent. per annum. China's population is according to the most reliable returns we have not greater than it was fifty years ago. This means that on an average about three millions perish annually while the resources of the country in surface and mineral wealth is one of the best in the world. This means suffering that is unparalleled on the face of the earth which can be easily averted. While one in a hundred of the mandarins have some knowledge of how to reform this state of things the other 99 ridicule their schemes as preposterously utopian because none of all their wise men of the past used them! Thus China literally perishes for lack of knowledge. Without this knowledge there is no hope for her.

Last year we pointed out in detail some of the enormous benefits political and commercial, in transport, in industries, and in philanthropy which might have been reaped by China if she only knew how—amounting to *more than a thousand million sterling!* This year further evidence has been published from Shantung of the low plane of living there as compared with Europe and of the hard struggle for existence which is the lot of the many millions there for want of knowledge of how things can be improved,—knowledge which it is in our power to give. The low plane of living and the incalculable sufferings which follow in the train of this great poverty make the heart of every one who has witnessed it ache permanently till relief is attempted.

The present Foreign trade of China is 52 millions sterling. By enlightenment not only will the internal condition of the country vastly improve but the international trade can also be easily *multiplied manifold*. The gain to China alone from the increase of commerce would be equal to that of all other nations combined. The gain to other nations also from this increase would be not a small item. Those interested in the progress of commerce whether Chinese or Foreigners will find that our Society is one of their best allies, and we hope they will give a good hearing to its claims and more than ordinary support.

The Viceroy of Tientsin a few years ago asked "What is the good of Christianity?" A book answering that question was prepared and published by our Society. Last year he offered a prize on "How to reform Chinese religions." This is full of significance, indicating that the mind of the great Viceroy is not satisfied with the present state of the religion of China which till recently all mandarins considered the best in the world. We hope to prepare a book on "How to reform Chinese religions," but it is a great problem and will take some time to handle properly. As the Chinese have always believed in the ethical theory of progress an appeal on this ground will no doubt be as highly appreciated by them as by any people in the world.

Our present funds only permit us to print editions of 2,000 copies or 10,000 copies at most while in order to meet the large number of scholars in the Empire we should publish them by the hundred thousand as the same books are happily understood everywhere in China instead of being divided among so many different languages as in Europe and India. But this needs an increase of income to ten times at least that which we have at present in order to efficiently inform these awakened leaders of the right way of reforming their country in all its relations.

THE WAR.

Japan has already humiliated China more than any other foreign power has ever done. One of the latest results is that the Emperor wishes to know how it is that a small nation like Japan can successfully oppose a great Empire like China. This is another powerful evidence of the need of such enlightenment as our Society gives. By modern

knowledge only can an empire learn to be strong and to secure peace within her borders while protecting herself against Foreign foes. Her ancient subjects of study furnish her next to no help in this hour of dire need.

FINANCES.

The Treasurer's account will show how our former supporters have upheld our hands, and for this we are very thankful. *The Christian Literature Society for China* established in Glasgow has issued a most encouraging Report and together with the zealous *Ladies Auxiliary* has sent us £250. The Misses Harvie for the Nanking centre £20. The American Tract Society 100 gold dollars. Foreign friends in China \$353 and Chinese friends \$1,480.

But we still have MSS. in hand from the Rev. James Sadler of Amoy and others *which we cannot yet publish for want of funds*. Several books for women and children have been published as seen above but the account for them has not been presented. Dr. Allen, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Foster will be occupied largely with the publication of literature for which funds are being raised by the Ladies in Glasgow. Our balance is only a working balance which we must have always in hand for the efficient working of the Society.

The Christian Literature Society for India has ten times our income but our income should be quite as large as theirs for the Chinese, judging from their great influence in the long past, are not likely to be behind in their future influence over the destiny of mankind.

THE SECRETARY'S SERVICES EXTENDED. - HIS VISIT HOME.

Through the generosity of the *English Baptist Missionary Society* the services of our esteemed Secretary the Rev. Timothy Richard have been granted for another term of three years. For this the Committee is extremely grateful in view of the great value of these services in connection with our Society.

Believing that few if any of the Societies in China are in a position to render more service to China at the present crisis than our own we hope for a great increase in the funds to enable us to carry on our work in the most efficient manner. This we think can be best promoted by a personal visit on the part of our Secretary to England and perhaps to America in order to lay the needs of China before those who have

world-wide sympathies and who endeavour by every means in their power to carry out the will of God concerning the world at large and China in particular which is destined to be yet one of the greatest factors in the future of the world. It is earnestly hoped that adequate funds will be forthcoming for the guidance of the Chinese people in the onward course of enlightenment, civilization, and Christianity which it is the special object of our Society to promote and which is so urgently needful in regard to it.

OUR AIM.

Our aim is to reach the higher and the educated classes of China, men and women, so that the countless poor in China may be delivered, and to bring about a *renaissance* of a fourth of the human race by following principles which are as certain in their action as those which make water flow downward and sparks fly upward. Instead of selfish principles, which in the end only destroy nations as well as individuals, we intend to base all enlightenment on Christian principles of love and good-will to all, and thus while promoting the welfare of China directly promote also that of other nations indirectly; such principles are universally and eternally safe.

To accomplish this, consider some of the leading features of Chinese Government and education, and see how our Society can utilise these for the extension of its enlightening agency.

The population of China proper without following any extreme estimates is about 350 millions or the same as Europe. It is now divided into twenty-one provinces or about the same number of provinces as there are kingdoms in Europe. Each province then is practically an European kingdom. Each of these provinces are again divided into ten prefectures (more or less) which are again sub-divided into ten small counties, sometimes more and sometimes less.

Now the civil mandarins of the rank of mayors and upwards					
number	...	...	...	...	2,289
Expectant mandarins of the same rank about	...				2,000
Educational Examiners for counties and upwards	...				1,760
Professors of colleges about	...	...	...	...	2,000
Total...					8,049

The Chinese have a most unique system of *education*. The candidates for the *Hsiu-ts'ai* degree (an equivalent to the Western B.A.) meet twice every three years for their examinations, and the candidates for the *Chü Jen* degree (or M.A.) meet once every three years. Thus between the two sets we have grand examinations annually, not to mention extra ones on special occasions of national rejoicing, such as the emperor's marriage, accession to the throne, attainment of 60 years, etc. The examinations for the *Hsiu-ts'ai* degree are generally held in the prefectural cities at which all candidates from the ten counties attend. The examinations for the *Chü Jen* degree are held at the capital city of each province simultaneously, a thing without a parallel in any nation. It is estimated that the *Chü Jen* candidates altogether number 100,000, the *Hsiu-ts'ai* candidates are at least five times that number 500,000.

Thus we have of civil mandarins and educational examiners and professors 8,000. The scholars or active literati 600,000, not counting many who have got degrees, but do not attend examinations. By reaching these we practically reach the 350 millions of China. When we influence the mind of these we shall have practically influenced at least three-fourths of the rest, for the masses in China look up with special reverence to the scholars as the only ones who know. The work of our Society by removing prejudice from the minds of the natural leaders of the people opens up new and vast fields of usefulness for other Societies among the masses and thus all classes are touched.

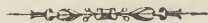
The importance of influencing the leaders will appear when we bear in mind that not only the conversion and uplifting of N. Europe took place after first influencing the leaders Vladimir, Rudolph, Charlemagne, Alfred the Great and other rulers, and that the permanent work of modern Missions—in the Pacific, in Madagascar, in S. Africa and elsewhere—has also been largely through the leaders, but also that the wane of Christianity in Asia Minor, Egypt and N. Africa, followed the defection of the *rulers* to Mohammedanism.

Inasmuch as there are fifteen hundred Missionaries devoting themselves to ordinary Mission work among the masses of the Chinese generally, and only three men devoting themselves wholly for this work among leaders, the need of far greater support of the work we are carrying on is obvious.

What we greatly want then is to get some who feel God's call to them in this new and marvellous opening of His Providence in China now. Hitherto the Chinese have been asleep, now they are beginning to wake up by the thunder clap of war which threatens their conservative and non-progressive civilization. £100 annually for each of the 21 provincial capitals and £20 annually for each of the 200 prefectures will enable us to systematically reach all the active leaders of the Empire with the best Christian Literature. Who will become responsible for raising funds for one of the larger or one of the lesser lights? Such persons shall verily shine like stars in the heaven of the Chinese mind.

There are a few chosen ones—the elect of God and men—in all nations and ages who hear the still small voice of God in every groan of their fellowmen and who do all they can to deliver them from their sufferings and to get them to enjoy all the blessings which enlightenment and goodwill can suggest. In the language of earth these are called the greatest benefactors of their race. In the language of heaven their names are written in the *Book of Life*—Gazetted among the highest rank of the nobility of immortals as THOSE WHO HAVE DONE WHAT THEY COULD!

The Secretary will gladly furnish further information to any wishing to help in this gigantic work. Address Shanghai, China: or Foreign Missions Club, 150 Highbury New Park, London N.



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Rev. Dr. Edkins.....	...	10.00
Rev. John Stevens	5.00
M. Goebel, Esq.	10.00
Rev. P. Kranz.....	...	10.00
Rev. John R. Hykes	5.00
Andrew Burman, Esq.	5.00
W. V. Drummond, Esq.....	...	10.00
Rev. Dr. W. A. P. Martin.....	...	20.00
H.E. Chêng, Taotai, China Merchants	40.00
R. Eiswaldt, Esq.	10.00
Nanking Missionary Association	25.00
Th. Schnell, Esq., (per the A. P. M. Press)	15.50
		<u>1,833.52</u>

THE SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG
THE CHINESE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

		\$	£
To Editors' and Chinese writers' expenses*	342.38		
„ Printing and publishing <i>Review of the Times</i>	1,222.65		\$2,483.05
„ „ „ Books, Illustrations, Circulars, &c.	2,413.65		1,984.73
„ „ „ Ladies Branch Publications			4,467.78
„ „ „ <i>Missionary Review</i>	\$ 404.04		305.50
„ Chinese writer for the work	364.85		1,833.52
„ Chinese writer for the work	132.00		
„ Printing Reports	900.89		
„ Freight, Boxes, Postage, Advertising, &c.	26.80		
„ „ „	112.91		
„ Balance of Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Current Account	5,019.28		
„ On Deposit	\$2,892.52†		
„ Interest	Tls. 1,452.46		
„ „ „	72.61		
On Deposit	Tls. 1,525.07 = \$2,082.19†		
„ „ „	1,600.00 = 2,147.64		
	7,122.35		
		\$12,141.63	
By Balance from 1893 Current Account			\$2,483.05
„ Fixed Deposit Tls. 1,452.46			1,984.73
„ Subscriptions and Donations as per list			4,467.78
„ „ Tls. 1,140.00			305.50
„ Subscriptions from Christian Lit. Soc. Glasgow			1,833.52
„ „ Ladies Auxiliary	£145 0 0		1,297.99
„ „ Misses Harvie	105 0 0		939.92
„ „ Am. Tract Society	20 0 0		174.75
„ „ „	20 8 2		189.30
„ Sale of <i>Review of the Times</i>			2,601.96
„ „ <i>Missionary Review</i>			986.44
„ „ Books, &c., &c.			253.11
„ „ „			1,047.01
„ Interest on Current Account			8,286.56
„ „ Deposit for a year			48.99
„ „ Tls. 72.61			97.46
„ Cash from T. Hanbury, Esq., for translations			146.45
„ And prizes in Canton, Foochow, Hangchow, Nanking & Peking			
„ Tls. 600.00 a 74.5			805.36
			\$12,141.63

* The Secretary's two Chinese writers were paid by himself till May 31st. Since then the Society pays one of them \$25.00 monthly.
† This sum is needful to meet current expenses at Mission Press, as their account is only received up to 30th June.
‡ Held to meet claim of Dr. Williamson.

Audited and found correct,
ROBT. FERGUSSON.

E. & O. E.
SHANGHAI, 15th November, 1894.

JAMES BUCHANAN,
Treasurer.

The SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese was held in the Municipal Council Board Room, Shanghai, on the 6th December, 1894. Mr. George Jamieson, H.B.M.'s. Acting Consul-General presided, and there were present: Mr. and Mrs. Addis, Rev. Young J. Allen, LL.D., Rev. J. Bates, Prof. Bonnell, J. Buchanan, J. P. Donovan, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Edkins, Rev. G. F. Fitch, A. H. Harries, Dr. E. Henderson, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Kranz, Rev. Dr. Mr. and Mrs. Muirhead, Rev. T. Richard, Mr. and Mrs. Thorne, and several others. The Rev. Dr. Muirhead having opened the meeting with prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been taken as read and approved,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the Report and Accounts. He said he ventured to think the report gave promise of substantial progress during the year. Beginning from a small foundation the Society had made real and substantial progress. Its object, as they knew, was to supply literature, both Christian and of general information among the higher classes of China, and in the report before the meeting page 11 would be found a list of the new publications issued by the Society. Those first mentioned were more strictly of a religious character, but further on would be found works which would have considerable influence on the people of China. He might mention one by the late Mr. Goebel, on "The Modern Value of Waterworks and Dredging" and others by the Secretary on "Productive and Non-productive Labour," "Progress of China's Neighbours," "Eight Great Emperors of Europe," etc. The Society had also three works ready, although not yet published. The most important of these was a work which had been accomplished by the Secretary—the translation of Mackenzie's *History of the Nineteenth Century*—and another was *Essays on the Questions of the Day in China*, together with *Pioneers of Modern Missions*. With regard to the appreciation of the Society's labours by the Chinese officials and upper classes, they had had a most significant intimation in the donation of the large sum of Tls. 1,000 by one of the principal officers in China—the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung. That donation was very acceptable, not merely for the value of the money, but more so as an appreciation of the work, and an encouragement to go on. There had also been donations from other officials, and he (the Chairman) hoped the example would be more largely followed in the year now being entered upon. The Society had also the *Review of the Times*, a paper which had been in existence for a number of years, and in which an effort was made to keep ahead in general progress by essays on varied subjects, and the *Missionary Review*, which was intended more particularly for the scattered churches in the land, in order to enable them to keep touch with one another and the central Society. Through the agency of various missions in the interior the Society had also distributed a large quantity of literature. It had taken advantage of the collection of students to be found at the triennial examinations, and had distributed a great number of leaflets and short essays on subjects of interest. For that the Society was principally indebted to the labours of the Secretary (the Rev. Timothy Richard), and generally he (the Chairman) might say that without the Secretary the Society would certainly not be what it was, and he did not know how Mr. Richard could be replaced. The members of the Society felt they were under a constant debt of obligation to Mr. Richard whose name was so well-known, not only in Shanghai, but also throughout the length and breadth of China for the able work he had done and was doing. (Applause.) Events were now going on in this country, which, though they might be

deplored, they ventured to hope might in the future result in the good of this great country. They could not but think there would be an awakening. China and a general enquiry among thinking minds as to whether there was not outside China something which might not be useful, and would help to strengthen the Empire, and by protecting themselves against foes, would enable the people to enter upon a new career of progress. The work of that Society was to supply information of that kind, and as its objects became more generally known he hoped they would attract more attention and bring support and encouragement. The Society had still to depend very largely upon subscriptions. In donations and subscriptions the sum of \$1,833 had been received in China, and from home, principally Scotland, \$2,600 had been received, whilst from the sale of books the substantial sum of \$2,286 had been realised. There was a fair balance in hand, but the Society had a good deal of work to do. The publication of books now prepared would take some time, and so more money was wanted. In conclusion he begged to propose:—

That the Report and Accounts as now presented to the subscribers, be adopted and passed.

The Rev. G. F. Fitch seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*

The Rev. J. Edkins said he had much pleasure in proposing:—

That the office-bearers for the ensuing year be Sir Robert Hart, G.C.M.G., President; Mr. George Jamieson, F.S.S., Vice-President; Mr. James Buchanan, Hon. Treasurer; Rev. T. Richard and Rev. Gilbert Reid, Hon. Secretaries; Rev. Dr. Allen, Rev. Edkins, Rev. P. Kranz, Mr. P.G. von Möllendorff, Rev. Dr. Muirhead, Mr. C. Thorne, members of the Executive Committee.

He had particular satisfaction in proposing this resolution because it included the name of the Rev. Gilbert Reid, who had taken a specially important part in bringing before the United States friends of China the new opportunities, and impressing upon their minds a new kind of interest in the work which the Society had been doing. It was a great advantage to have Mr. Reid working with the Society. With the war producing such remarkable changes and at such a remarkable crisis in the history of the Empire, the friends of the Society ought to be prepared to put their shoulders to the wheel and push forward the carriage of progress in the land. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Dr. Muirhead said it gave him very particular pleasure to see the progress the Society had made and he thought the Secretary deserved very great commendation for the manner in which he had carried on his work. He hoped the coming year would be signalised by very great advancement in the operations of the Society, and he had much pleasure in seconding Dr. Edkins' resolution.

Upon being put to the meeting the resolution was carried unanimously.

Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Rev. J. Bates the following resolution was unanimously agreed to—

That the names of the Hon. J. Helenus Ferguson, Mr. James Buchanan, Dr. J. Fryer, Mr. A. E. Hippisley, Rev. P. Kranz, Mr. A. P. MacEwen, Rev. G. Reid, Rev. T. Richard, Dr. Stuebel be added to the list of Directors.

Mr. C. Thorne proposed:—

That we tender the best thanks of the Society to our supporters for their kind help, we heartily recommend the vigorous prosecution of the work both in the way of developing the vast resources of the Empire and in establishing all reforms on the soundest ethical basis.

He remarked that such a resolution required few words to commend it in view of the report which had been placed before the meeting. Small as the work of the Society might appear to be, still, if the difficulties of the work were taken into account, it would be seen that the Society had done some exceedingly good work. The extent of the work before the Society was well set out on page 18 of the report. The population they had to reach was 350 millions, and yet the Secretary had shown very clearly how a little leaven could be made to leaven the whole lump. The mandarins, expectant mandarins, examiners and professors numbered in all 8,049, who came in contact with the vast population, and were enabled to influence them to a certain extent. When they read from time to time that the *litterati* were against them, and they now found that members of that class were sending subscriptions, it clearly showed the Society was at last reaching those it desired to reach. He hoped that friends would not only follow Dr. Edkins' advice and put their shoulders to the wheel, but would also put their hands in their pockets. (Laughter, and hear, hear)

Mr. Addis, in seconding the resolution, said great measures demand great men and he could not help feeling on his return to Shanghai the memory of one of our best friends China ever had, the late Dr. Williamson and he must say that what Mr. Richard has taken up he has carried on with all the energy and success of our late Secretary: in his humble opinion there was one point of view which had not been enough insisted upon and that was the commercial side of the question. No one who reflected upon such matters could help seeing that whatever differences there might have been between missionary and commercial interests, their essential interests were the same, and he thought commercial men should welcome a Society of that kind, where they met on common ground and should be able to put their shoulders to the wheel together to do what they could to advance common interests. A recent speech of Lord Rosebery gave point to this argument, that there really was no difference between the interests of the two classes. Where the British merchant had gone the British missionary would go also. He suggested to the Secretary that he might on his forthcoming visit home lay the objects of the Society before Chambers of Commerce with gratifying results. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. Throne proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for not only presiding at this meeting but also for the kind manner in which he occupied the chair at Committee Meetings. The courtesy and thoroughness with which he entered into every question and the manner in which he presided over the institution generally deserved the best thanks of the members and subscribers. This was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman in acknowledging this said his small services were scarcely worth mentioning, but such as they were they were always at the disposal of the Society. He had only joined it recently but during the twelve months of his connection with it he was satisfied it was a Society which was doing good and useful work and which was likely to do still more in the future. Mr. Addis had referred to a point which had frequently been in his (the Chairman's) mind; and that was, that by infusing knowledge into the Chinese at large the commercial progress of the country would be furthered, to the benefit of those who came here solely for commercial purposes. He thought if that point were brought before the Chamber of Commerce at home more money would be given the Society.

The proceedings closed with the benediction by the Rev. Dr. Allen.